

December 4, 1956

Dr. Hideo Nakayama  
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Dear Dr. Nakayama:

Thank you for your letter of November 23. I hope that table 2 of the paper to which you refer was not misleading. We are no longer using vitamin K in any searches for mutants. I agree that many strains of Escherichia coli will be inhibited by the recommended concentration of the vitamin. This was merely a guess as to probable levels based on experience of other workers. So far as I know there have been no vitamin K requiring mutants of E. coli reported by any investigative period. It is by no means likely that this vitamin is an essential metabolizer for this particular bacterium. However, I am sure that you are aware of studies on Johne's bacillus which has a requirement for related substances.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

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